Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0012] to read as follows:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the invention showing a multi-well plate cover designated 1, a lid 3, side walls 7 of lid 3, notched tabs ~~10~~ 12 with locator holes 11 of lid 3, stacking locators (slots) 13 of lid 3, and stacking lugs 17 of lid 3.

Please amend paragraph [0026] to read as follows:

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, a multi-well plate cover generally designated 1 in FIG. 1 comprises a one-piece metal lid 3 which is fabricated by conventional metal fabrication techniques employing the cutting, stamping and/or bending of sheet metal. Suitable metals include steel, spring steel, stainless steel and stainless spring steel, preferably having a thickness between about 0.015" and 0.024". The metallic design provides a high degree of chemical resistance, especially to dimethyl sulfoxide, the solvent most commonly used in multi-well plate storage. Included as part of the lid 3 are the side walls 7, integral to and formed at approximately 90 degrees to the top surface of lid 3; the notched tabs 12 with locator holes 11 integral with and extending from lid 3; stacking locators (slots) 13; and stacking locator lugs 17. The slots 13 configured to accept corresponding lugs 17 of a second cover 1 stacked over a first cover 1 (see FIG. 14) and thus align the covers laterally and longitudinally. FIG. 2 shows a planar, uncompressed gasket 23 disposed on the convex side of a curvilinear section 19 of lid 3, covering the surface thereof in sufficient area to fully engage the upper surface of a multi-well plate. Gasket 23 is preferably made from a low-durometer (Shore ISA or less) thermoplastic polymer or elastomer with a thickness of approximately 3/32" or 0.100". Gasket 23 is manufactured using standard injection molding or extrusion technology, and is preferable affixed by an adhesive to the bottom surface of the lid 3. A preferred gasket material is ~~Synprene~~ SYNPRENE 5A manufactured by Polyone. FIG. 1 also shows a longitudinal axis "L" of the cover 1 parallel to the side walls 7.

Please amend paragraph [0028] to read as follows:

FIG. 5 is an end view of multi-well plate cover 1 and serves to illustrate the spring nature of multi-well plate cover 1. **FIG. 6** is also an end view of multi-well plate cover 1 and depicts the displacement of side walls 7 of multi-well plate cover 1 in preparation for attachment to a multi-well plate (not shown in FIG. 6). **FIG. 7** shows a continuation of the process of attaching multi-well plate cover 1 to a multi-well plate 5 (in phantom) in which multi-well plate cover 1 is vertically pressed in the direction shown by arrows 18 onto multi-well plate 5, causing the compression of uncompressed gasket 23 onto the upper surface of multi-well plate 5 while side walls 7 are outwardly extended. **FIG. 8** shows a continuation of the process of attaching the multi-well plate cover 1 to multi-well plate 5 in which multi-well plate cover 1 having been placed in contact with the upper surface of multi-well plate 5 has side walls 7 released into their normal position in which multi-well plate holders or clamps 15 engage a skirt 20 of multi-well plate 5 by moving in the direction of arrows 22. The engagement of multi-well plate holders 15 with skirt 20 exerts a downward force on the ends of curvilinear section **19** to exert a compressive force on gasket 23. In the embodiment of FIG. 5 the multi-well plate holders or clamps 15 project (extend) inwardly from respective side walls 7 and each have a first portion 15A proximal to the side wall from which the respective multi-well plate holder or clamp 15 extends and a second relatively distal portion 15B having a convex transverse (lateral) cross-section (transverse relative to the longitudinal axis "L" of the cover 1) such that a distal end 15C of the respective multi-well plate holder or clamp 15 is directed generally downwardly. FIG. 5 also shows the stacking locator lugs 17 project downwardly from the side walls 7 a distance lower than the multi-well plate holders or clamps 15. FIG. 8 shows the pair of side walls 7 extend downwardly from the cover 1 a sufficient length for the multi-well plate holders or clamps 15 to contact the multi-well plate 5 from underneath by contacting a lower surface of the multi-well plate 5 in a grasping position. The multi-well plate holders or clamps 15 being located a sufficient distance from the upper edge of their respective side wall 7 to downwardly urge peripheral sides, of the cover 1, integral with the sidewalls 7.